

***Listing of Claims***

**Please replace all prior versions of claims with the following listing of claims:**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for caching a network connection, comprising the steps of:
  - receiving a connection request for at least one first connection between at least one terminal and a server;
  - establishing the at least one first connection between the at least one terminal and the server;
  - requesting at least one second connection between the server and at least one ~~end device~~ database, wherein the database includes at least one self defining entity, the self defining entity including at least one of a hierarchical data list, a hierarchical data element, and a hierarchical data container;
  - establishing the at least one second connection;
  - retrieving the at least one self defining entity from the at least one database via the second connection; and
  - maintaining a record of the at least one second connection established.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a disconnection request for the at least one first connection from the at least one terminal.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of disconnecting the at least one first connection.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of sustaining the at least one second connection after the at least one first connection has been disconnected.
5. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the record is includes a list of established second connections.
6. **(Currently Amended)** A system for caching a network connection, comprising:
- connection request receiving means for receiving a connection request for at least one first connection between at least one terminal and a server;
  - connection establishing means for establishing the at least one first connection between the at least one terminal and the server;
  - connection requesting means for requesting at least one second connection between the server and at least one ~~end device~~ database, wherein the database includes at least one self defining entity, the self defining entity including at least one of a hierarchical data list, a hierarchical data element, and a hierarchical data container;
  - connection establishing means for establishing the at least one second connection;
  - data retrieval means for retrieving the at least one self defining entity from the at least one database via the second connection; and
  - maintaining means for maintaining a record of the at least one second connection established.

7. **(Original)** The system of claim 6, further comprising disconnection request receiving means for receiving a disconnection request for the at least one first connection from the at least one terminal.
8. **(Original)** The system of claim 7, further comprising disconnecting means for disconnecting the at least one first connection.
9. **(Original)** The system of claim 8, further comprising connection sustaining means for sustaining the at least one second connection after the at least one first connection has been disconnected.
10. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 6, wherein the record is includes a list of established second connections.
11. **(Currently Amended)** A system for caching a network connection, comprising:
- a connection request receiving module that receives a connection request for at least one first connection between at least one terminal and a server;
  - a connection establishing module that establishes the at least one first connection between the at least one terminal and the server;
  - a connection requesting module that requests at least one second connection between the server and at least one ~~end device~~ database, wherein the database includes at least one self defining entity, the self defining entity

including at least one of a hierarchical data list, a hierarchical data element, and a hierarchical data container;

a connection establishing module that establishes the at least one second connection;

a data retrieval module that retrieves the at least one self defining entity from the at least one database via the second connection; and

a connection maintaining module that maintains a record of the at least one second connection established.

12. **(Original)** The system of claim 11, further comprising a disconnection request receiving module that receives a disconnection request for the at least one first connection from the at least one terminal.

13. **(Original)** The system of claim 12, further comprising a disconnecting module that disconnects the at least one first connection.

14. **(Original)** The system of claim 13, further comprising a connection sustaining module that sustains the at least one second connection after the at least one first connection has been disconnected.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 11, wherein the record is includes a list of established second connections.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A processor readable medium comprising

processor readable code for caching a network connection, comprising:

connection request receiving code that causes a processor to receive a connection request for at least one first connection between at least one terminal and a server;

connection establishing code that causes a processor to establish the at least one first connection between the at least one terminal and the server;

connection requesting code that causes a processor to request at least one second connection between the server and at least one ~~end device~~ database, wherein the database includes at least one self defining entity, the self defining entity including at least one of a hierarchical data list, a hierarchical data element, and a hierarchical data container;

connection establishing code that causes a processor to establish the at least one second connection;

data retrieval code that causes a processor to retrieve the at least one self defining entity from the at least one database via the second connection; and

connection maintaining code that causes a processor to maintain a record of the at least one second connection established.

17. **(Original)** The medium of claim 16, further comprising disconnection request receiving code that causes a processor to receive a disconnection request for the at least one first connection from the at least one terminal.

18. **(Original)** The medium of claim 17, further comprising connection disconnecting code that causes a processor to disconnect the at least one first connection.

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19. **(Original)** The medium of claim 18, further comprising connection sustaining code that causes a processor to sustain the at least one second connection after the at least one first connection has been disconnected.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 16, wherein the record is includes a list of established second connections.